



NEWS RELEASE

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Woman Charged with Murder for Father's Day Crash

A woman has been charged with killing a man in a DUI crash this summer in North Hills, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Maritza Lara (dob 6/11/92) of Van Nuys faces one felony count each of murder, hit-and-run driving resulting in death or serious injury to another person and driving under the influence of alcohol and a drug causing injury within 10 years of other DUI offense.

Deputy District Attorney Casey Higgins of the DUI Training and Prosecution Section said the charges includes an allegation of causing great bodily injury to the four people in the defendant's vehicle at the time of the crash.

The defendant pleaded not guilty today and is scheduled to return on Nov. 6 in Department S of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, San Fernando Branch. Case PA093031 was filed for warrant on July 3.

Lara is charged with running a red light at Haskell Avenue and Parthenia Street and crashing into a car, killing its driver, Francisco Rivas, 48, on June 16, the prosecutor said. The passengers in Lara's vehicle were severely injured as a result of the crash.

The defendant then allegedly fled but was later deported by Mexico and returned to the United States, the prosecutor added.

Bail is set at \$2.13 million. If convicted as charged, Lara faces a possible maximum sentence of 31 years to life in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department, Valley Traffic Division.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.